


OCTOBER 1948

 BIBLE
SOCIETY

HOLBROOK LIBRARY
PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

Record

WANTED: 500,000 New Members



The Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Dr. Alberto Lleras, accepts Spanish and English Bibles at a presentation at the Pan American Union, Washington, D.C. Secretary Claypool holds the English Bible as the Spanish Bible is presented by Dr. H. C. Tucker (see page 127)

Greek General Staff
Asst B-Staff Branch B'
Ref.No.260590

25 August 47

To: The American Bible Society
Astoria New York N.Y.

U.S.A.

Dear Sirs,

The Command of the Greek Army is wishing to provide each recruit with a copy of the New Testament, which copy is to be kept by them on their release.

The required number of such copies for the first period amounts to approx 200,000. Of them, 75% are required in translation and 25% in the original text.

In view of the fact that the prevailing financial conditions do not allow the Greek Army to purchase or print locally the said copies, it will be greatly appreciated if you would inform this Headquarters whether you can provide them gratis, as a gift. If not, please state the terms upon which you would be able to dispatch them.

Trusting you will fully realize the scope of our efforts to propagate the Saint Scriptures within the Army and relying upon your full assistance, we remain,

Sincerely

A. PERIVOLIOTIS, Maj. Gen
Chief Staff Branch B'
Greek General Staff

P.S. Please address your answer to:

Greek General Staff
Religious Service Directorate
Athens, Greece



Office
Chief Staff
(Lt)

Here You Are, General Perivoliotis!

*Over a year has passed since the
Chief of Staff of Branch B of the Greek
Army addressed the letter reproduced
here. His patience has at last
been rewarded*

BY ROBERT T. TAYLOR

PECULIAR interest attached itself to the request for Scriptures that came from the Greek Army last year. It was one of a veritable flood that reached the Bible Society from many quarters of the globe within a few weeks. But this one was from Greece, the country where many of the incidents related in the Book of Acts took place, the country where the Gospel of Christ first entered Europe and the country whose language in its ancient form was that in which most of the New Testament was originally written. Greece today is also a country where the ideological battle between totalitarianism and democracy is sharply joined. If the spread of the police-state type of government can be permanently checked in Greece, it may never reach Turkey, Iran and India, and other areas in Asia.

It is with great joy and satisfaction, then, that the American Bible Society announces the cooperative program carried through with the British and Foreign Bible Society by which the request of the Greek army is completely granted.

By the end of October 1948 there will be ready for shipment from this country 150,000 Modern Greek New Testaments for the Greek Army. They are of the vest-pocket type similar to those supplied to the American armed forces during World War II. They will be distributed to the Greek Army along with 50,000 Ancient Greek New Testaments which are being printed in Canada by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

It is the purpose of the Greek General Staff and Command of the Greek Army to provide each soldier and re-

cruit with a copy of the New Testament in either Ancient or Modern Greek. In each case the book is to remain in the possession of the soldier upon his release.

That the books will be a welcome addition to the equipment of many a soldier is unquestioned. *Bible Society Record* readers will recall an item which appeared in the July issue this year, entitled "As a Greek Soldier Sees It," in which a front-line fighter who was one of the fortunate few to have a Scripture volume with him, wrote: "When the Lord gives this country peace again, we shall be responsible before God if we do not go out as missionaries . . . to our own Greeks. The Word of God must reach the farthest, smallest village, the loneliest hut and remotest corner of our land."

During the long delay necessitated by the negotiations for getting the New Testaments in production, the American Bible Society has distributed to the Greek Army, through gifts from the Oriental Missionary Society and with the help of its representative, over 200,000 Greek Gospels.

The cost of each New Testament delivered in Greece will be about twenty-five cents, making the 150,000 copies total \$37,500. Because of the strategic importance of meeting this request the Society has incurred this expense (although its World Emergency Funds are greatly overextended) in the firm belief that thousands of people in this country, when they read this statement, will want to share the cost. Gifts for this purpose should be marked "For the Greek Army" and sent to the Treasurer, American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 93 OCTOBER • 1948 NUMBER 8

“One World in Christ”

SHORTLY after this issue of the *Bible Society Record* reaches its readers, there will be held, beginning Wednesday, October 6, at Columbus, Ohio a great gathering of Church leaders concerned with an immediate worldwide program of advance in foreign missions. The theme for this great assembly is “One World in Christ.” The foreword to the announcement of their plans begins with these arresting sentences:

Our world is seeking desperately to find short-cuts to peace and security, urged on by panic-stricken scientists who have developed techniques of destruction which threaten to overwhelm all present social controls. We . . . are convinced that the secret of permanent peace is *One World in Christ*—a world united through a common faith in God through Christ; and so thoroughly in Christ, that this commandment to love one another is fulfilled in all human relationships.

No one who honestly prays for the coming of the Kingdom can fail to respond to the thorough and consecrated way in which our missionary leaders of the various denominations have looked at the devastated, suffering postwar world; have in prayer appraised its appalling needs, and have planned for their relief on a scale never before undertaken by the forces of Christ.

In its essence this ambitious program is one of evangelism, which the planners of the Advance program call the “warp upon which is woven the many-colored pattern of Christian missions.”

The American Bible Society has an enormous stake in all this. If, through the winning to Christ of thousands in all lands, with its promising results in trained leadership and the spread of good will among all men, there is to emerge even the reasonable hope of “One World in Christ,” there must be millions of copies of the Scriptures placed in the hands of the newly redeemed and the interested inquirers. The American Bible Society is aware that it must bear a large, maybe the largest, share of producing and sup-

plying these books. But it is also painfully aware that even if there were no missionary advance, the opportunities for the effective distribution of the Scriptures today exceed the present ability of the American Bible Society, or all the Bible Societies of the world, to meet them.

There are lands at present where, before the recent war, there was no shortage of Scriptures to which the American Bible Society was asked to respond. Germany, for instance, supplied her own Scriptures for the most part. Today Germany is ten million Bibles and New Testaments short and is without adequate present facilities, or even early prospects, for supplying them herself.

There are other lands, with non-Christian cultures, where since the war the demand for Scriptures has been dramatically multiplied, holding out bright hopes for enormous Christian advance in areas formerly indifferent to the Gospel. Japan, for instance, is calling for and eagerly absorbing, to the extent they can be supplied, a hundred times as many Scriptures as were circulated among her people ten years ago.

If to these and like opportunities there be added the inevitable effect of such a program as is to be launched this month in Columbus, Ohio, there must come from individuals and from the churches of America a marked increase in the giving for this specific and indispensable part of all missionary endeavor—the adequate supplying of the Scriptures to the people who need them. In this Book, and there alone, lies the foundation of permanence in Christian advance.

It is evident that, if we are to have “One World in Christ,” those individuals and Churches that have regularly supported the American Bible Society must come to see their responsibility in radically advanced figures.



They Took a World View

The picture at the top of this page shows fifty-eight of the somewhat greater number who attended the meeting of the Council of the United Bible Societies at Dunblane, Scotland, June 1-5, 1948

BY GILBERT DARLINGTON

HAD Pastor Primarius O. Nystedt of Sweden, Bishop Ravasz of Hungary and Bishop Szervda of Poland been able to attend, the number of countries represented at the annual meeting of the Council of the United Bible Societies would have been twenty-three. It was a joy to admit as new members at this meeting the Federation of Swiss Bible Societies and the Union of Bible Societies of Germany.

Bishop Berggrav of Norway presided with his customary grace. He can be seen in the front row, the fourteenth from the left. Others in the picture who may be of interest to many of our readers are: Dr. John R. Temple of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who was reelected General Secretary of the United Bible Societies (he is twelfth from the left in the front row); the seventh from the right in the front row is Sr. H. T. Marroquín, the American Bible Society Secretary from Mexico, the only representative present from Latin America; the third and fourth from the right in the front row are Dr. and Mrs. Martin Niemöller; the tall man, tenth from the left in the back row, is Mr. Olivier Béguin, representative of the American Bible Society in Switzerland and newly elected Associate Secretary of the United Bible Societies; hardly appearing in the back row, the eighth from the left, is President Daniel Burke of the American Bible Society. [Treasurer Darlington is at the extreme right in the front row.—Ed.]

In the brief space allotted to this report, there can be little more than a tabulation of some of the more important matters discussed and actions taken at Dunblane. Even in this form, however, the report is eloquent, as it reveals how essentially the Bible has become the whole world's Book, and how the de-

mand for it in these emergent days is mounting to the point where there is little hope of meeting the need unless all the group committed to the sacred task of sowing the good seed of the Gospel work in closest cooperation.

In the field of Bible translation it was voted to have a compilation made of a list of the extremely difficult passages in the original texts of the Bible (Hebrew and Greek), with examples of their translation in various languages, as an aid to current translators. The preparation of a "Comprehensive Translators' Handbook" was urged.

In the field of publication, action was taken for safeguarding plates, shells, mats and printed copies of essential Bible versions and for the storing of duplicate copies in places far removed from any possible risk of war.

Cognizance was taken of the literacy movements so actively progressing in many parts of the world, and it was voted to make information about these movements available to the Churches.

A message was prepared to be given to the World Council of Churches pledging the maximum effort of the United Bible Societies and all of its members to end the world famine of Bibles that still exists in spite of the fact that the Bible Societies, now joined in the United Bible Societies, have in the past 140 years distributed over 1,000,000,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures in more than 1,000 languages.

The right of all men, including the new literates, to circulate, receive and read the Holy Scriptures in their own tongue was stressed as fundamental to all human rights and religious freedom. The resolution embodying these beliefs also stated "that every impediment placed in the way of circulating and read-

ing the Scriptures, now translated into over 1,000 tongues, should be removed."

Dr. C. A. Rao reported that 15,000,000 children and adults in China were learning to read every year, but that instead of 400, as there were before the war, there were now only 40 colporteurs distributing the Scriptures to China's 400,000,000 people. He stated that the real problem in China is, "What shall the new literates read?"

Canon Sinker of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon reported the desperate need for Scriptures in his vast area. In the face of a great opportunity, with the limited supplies now at hand, the Churches cannot even cope with the needs of their own members, much less missionary needs. He told of a new native missionary who was given a frock coat. He sold it to buy Gospels for his people. When given another coat, he did the same with it.

Sr. Marroquín reviewed the marvelous story of the Bible in Mexico. In three hundred years the Roman Church has distributed but a very few Bibles in Mexico, whereas in 70 years the British and American Bible Societies have distributed over 7,500,000 copies of the Scriptures. Literacy in Mexico has advanced from 20 percent in 1910 to almost 60 percent today.

The representatives from Germany stated that not less than a half million Bibles were lost as the result of air raids. The need is for whole Bibles, not just New Testaments. The new "Verband" of fourteen local German Bible Societies will hereafter administer all the Bible work in the country, even of the books made with materials donated by the American Bible Society.

Mr. Karl Uhl reported that the need in Austria could

be judged from the fact that a consignment of 5,000 Bibles was all sold out in five days.

Dr. Eugene Nida of the American Bible Society, just returned from a tour among Bible translators in Africa, similarly reported that at one mission station, where forty Bibles arrived, there were 4,000 applications for them on hand.

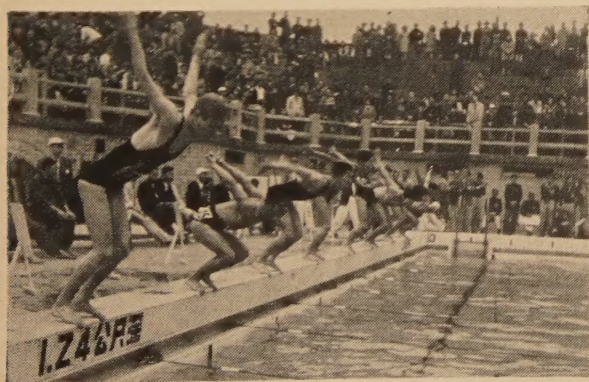
Secretary Wilkinson of the British and Foreign Bible Society stated that the only areas of the world that were closed to Bible distribution were Tibet, Afghanistan, Baluchistan and parts of Arabia. Turkey was not far different, however, for a colporteur who was able to enter that country for five weeks spent four of them in jail. The distribution of English, French and German Scriptures in Protestant versions is now possible in Spain.

Rev. B. Cernohorsky brought the cheering news that three weeks earlier the charter of the Czechoslovakian Bible Society had been approved and that a license had been issued to publish copies of the Scriptures.

The National Bible Society of Scotland was a most generous and delightful host. The delegates were treated not only to many memorable church meetings, but were tendered a reception by the Lord Provost and Councilors of the city of Edinburgh in the City Chambers the day before the conference opened. On the day following the conference the delegates spoke in many of the churches of Edinburgh and Glasgow in honor of Bible Sunday. Bishop Berggrav's address at the Dunblane Cathedral was heard over the British Broadcasting Company's facilities.

Scripture Distribution at the All-China Olympics

THE All-China Olympics held at Shanghai last spring was the first national athletic meet to be held in China since the war. Formerly these athletic meets were held annually. Athletes this year came from Manchuria, Mongolia, Sinkiang, Formosa and from most of the provinces in China proper. There was also a delegation of Chinese athletes from the Philippines. Competition open to boys and girls, men and women, was keen in various fields of sport—football, tennis, volley ball, swimming, etc. It is estimated that each day of the meet approximately a quarter of a million spectators attended.



Swimmers at All-China Olympics

Several Churches felt that here was a challenge to voluntary colportage. The Shanghai Evangelical Band organized a Gospel team for each day. Some workers were able to volunteer for the whole period. Some days as many as a hundred were engaged in selling Gospels to the athletes and to the hosts of spectators. On an average, about fifty a day took part.

As the meet was held on the athletic field at the new civic center, a Gospel car was used to bring the team from the city out to the field about ten miles away. Each member of the Gospel team bought an admission ticket and was busy all day selling Scriptures on the athletic grounds. The lunch hour proved to be the busiest time of day, as the athletes were resting and the spectators were looking for some diversion.

The daily sales averaged between one and three thousand Gospels. The Churches provided the team with food and spent more than ten million dollars a day for this item. However, ten million dollars at that time meant about ten dollars in U.S. currency. In all, over 20,000 Gospel portions were sold during the Olympics this year.

The China Bible House expressed its gratitude to the Gospel team for their readiness to witness, and for their willingness to engage in voluntary colportage, where many would hesitate even to try.

The Bible Society of Brazil Is Born

*The Churches of another great Nation assume responsibility for the spread of
God's Word throughout the Land*

BY LEWIS M. BRATCHER, JR.

SATURDAY, June twelfth, nineteen forty-eight became a historic day in the religious annals of Brazil. On that day an overflow of more than 3,000 people crowded into the auditorium of the First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro to participate in the inauguration of the Bible Society of Brazil. From the standpoint of organization it was the culmination of 102 years of faithful endeavor which began in 1846, when Methodist missionaries were sent to Brazil to care for the needs of seamen making its ports. The American Bible Society established an Agency in Rio in 1876, working in cooperation with the British and Foreign Bible Society. On January 1, 1942 a further step was taken in the closer consolidation of the work of the two Societies under the name "Sociedades Biblicas Unidas." And now at last, the American and British Societies have merged their identity in the formation of the Bible Society of Brazil. Both older Societies will, however, continue their guidance and support as long as it is needed.

Not only the great audience present in the church but tens of thousands more all over Brazil listened to the inaugural program by radio. After bringing greetings from his homeland, the Executive Secretary representing the American Bible Society read messages from the British and Foreign Bible Society and from Dr. H. C. Tucker, now retired, who represented the American Bible Society in Brazil from 1887 to 1934, forty-seven eminently fruitful years. Their greetings were followed by an address by Dr. Charles W. Turner, now Secretary of the American Bible Society's La Plata Agency, with headquarters in Buenos Aires. Dr. Turner was formerly stationed for thirteen years in Brazil. He made six observations concerning the work done in Brazil over the century: first, an adequate Biblical text in the Portuguese language had by constant study and revision been maintained; second, the continuous distribution of Scriptures had stimulated multitudes to read and study the Bible and to advance literacy; third, the uninterrupted work of the Societies had compelled other religious groups,

notably the Roman Church, to recognize the value of translating, publishing, distributing and using the Bible; fourth, the growth of the indigenous Churches of Brazil had been stimulated; fifth, a constant in-

crease has been maintained in distribution, centering in the Rio Bible House; and sixth, a thoroughly co-operative program has been developed with all the evangelical forces of Brazil.

Mr. C. H. Morris, Executive Secretary representing the British and Foreign Bible Society, then spoke, stressing the fact that since the foundation in 1942 of the "Sociedades Biblicas Unidas" more than 6,000,000 copies of the Scriptures had been distributed in the country.

Of particular interest was the presentation of the newly elected Secretary of the Bible Society of Brazil, Rev. Egmont Machado Krischke, a minister of the Episcopal Church of Brazil. The burden of his address was the unfailing aim to place a copy of the Scriptures effectively in every home in Brazil.

Following Secretary Krischke's address came the reading of the constitution of the new Society. Then followed brief remarks by the representatives of ten Evangelical Churches, each taking as his theme "The Bible Society of Brazil and My Church." It was the first time in the history of the Evangelical movement in Brazil that so large a number of communions had united in a religious service.

The principal inaugural address was delivered by Bishop Cesar Dacorso Filho, the first President of the Bible Society of Brazil. His theme was "The Bible Society of Brazil and the Salvation of Brazil." Toward the close of his eloquent appeal he said: "It is under the influence of the Holy Scriptures, by the inspiration of God's Word, with the leadership of the Bible, that peoples and individuals emphasize and hold high the teachings of Christianity and, in fact, cultivate religion in the home, the Church, in Society and in their work."

After President Dacorso's address, Rev. J. F. Soren, host pastor of the First Baptist Church and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the new Society,



Members of the first Board of Directors of the Bible Society of Brazil

Front row (left to right): Dr. L. M. Bratcher; Rev. Afonso Romano Filho; Rev. João F. Soren, Secretary of the Board; Bishop Cesar Dacorso Filho, President of the Board; Rev. Mattathias Gomes dos Santos, Vice President of the Board; Rev. Synesio Lyra; Archdeacon Nemesio de Almeida; Professor França Campos, Treasurer of the Board. Back row (left to right): C. H. Morris, Executive Secretary, B.F.B.S.; Dr. C. W. Turner (visitor, Executive Secretary of La Plata Agency); Rev. Hermann Dohms; Dr. Remigio Braga; Dr. Waldir Trajano Costa; Rev. Martin Begrich; Rev. Satilas do Amaral Camargo; Bishop W. M. M. Thomas; Rev. Azor Rodrigues; Rev. Rodolpho Anders; Rev. L. M. Bratcher, Jr. (Secretary for A.B.S.) Those absent: Rev. M. A. Souza; Rev. A. Varizo, Jr.; Rev. Miguel Rizzo, Jr.; Rev. J. E. Ellis; Rev. H. C. Tucker; Rev. L. F. Harris; Archdeacon C. S. Neale; Rev. William B. Forsyth; Rev. Egmont M. Krischke (Executive Secretary, Bible Society of Brazil)

read the proclamation of inauguration. The historic session closed with the triumphant singing of the beautiful Brazilian hymn "My Homeland for Christ," the dedicatory prayer and the benediction.

Hundreds tarried after the service to sign "The Book of the Bible," a memory volume prepared for the occasion, and to enroll as members of the Bible Society of Brazil.

Finnish Christians Celebrate

And the American Bible Society plays a leading role in making the celebration memorable

BY GILBERT DARLINGTON

ON OCTOBER 3, about the time that most subscribers to the *Bible Society Record* will be receiving this issue, the churches and Christian people of Finland will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the Finnish New Testament on October 3, 1548.



Archbishop Lehtonen

As part of the preparation for this anniversary, there left the port of New York one day in late July on the S.S. *Goonarra*, bound for Turku (Abo), Finland, consigned by the American Bible Society to the

Finnish Bible Society, 22,414 pounds of raw Brazilian coffee.

And what does ten tons of raw Brazilian coffee have to do with the Finnish New Testament? The answer is a thrilling one. Last June the American Bible Society was requested by Rev. Toivo Winter, General Secretary of the Finnish Bible Society, for donation of ten tons of raw coffee, to be forwarded through the Finnish Committee on Christian Reconstruction at Turku (Abo). Coming as a gift, the coffee was to be admitted duty-free. With the full approval of the Finnish Government, it will be retailed in the free market at a price that the Finnish Bible Society estimates will produce from ten to twelve times the amount in Finmarks that would be realized from the original gift. It is planned to sell the entire consignment of coffee on the day of the celebration, October 3. Since the first edition of the Finnish New Testament was translated by Bishop Michael Agricola, the coffee will be known as "Agricola" coffee.

The former Bible House of the Finnish Bible Society was in the city of Sortavala and was completely destroyed in the war between Russia and Finland in 1939. Sortavala is in Karelia, which is now a part of Russia. The proceeds received from the sale of the

"Agricola" coffee will be used to purchase a new Bible House in Turku (Abo) in which the meetings of the Finnish Bible Society will be held under the leadership of its president, Archbishop Aleksi Lehtonen, and where the Society's continuous activities of supplying the Scriptures to the people of Finland will be carried on under the direction of its General Secretary, Rev. Toivo Winter, and his staff.

In addition to the millions of copies of the Scriptures and tons of paper and other book-making materials which the American Bible Society has been, since the late war, freely supplying to many countries impoverished by military action, it is a great satisfaction to serve a whole nation in this unique way through the rehabilitation of its national Bible Society.

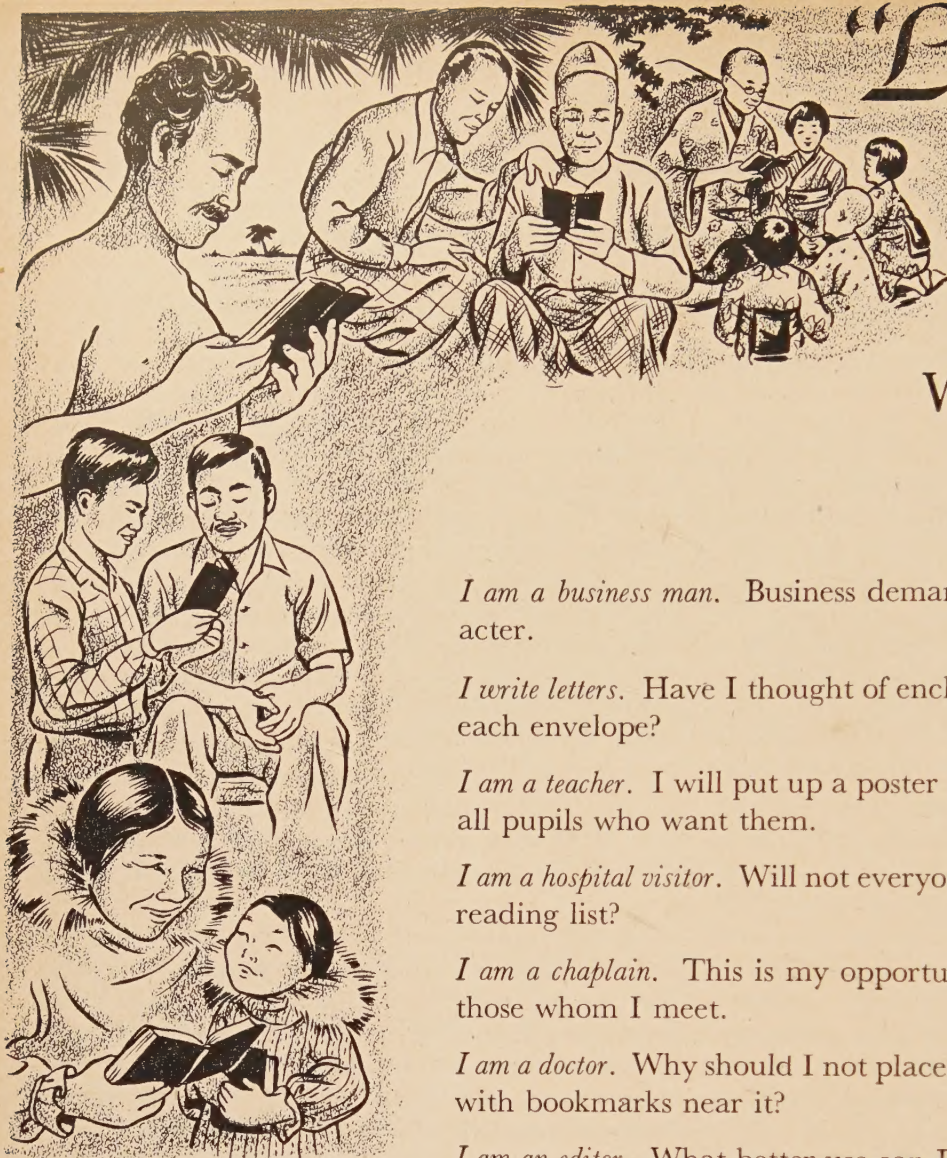
The total cost of the ten tons of raw coffee delivered to Turku (Abo) in Finland is estimated to be \$4,500. The Society must meet this cost out of its World Emergency Fund. There will be many who will want to make gifts to the Fund for this specific project. How fine it would be, if, just as Secretary Winter anticipates that the coffee will be sold on their great anniversary day, October 3, the Christian people of America would, as a result of this announcement in the October issue of the *Bible Society Record*, furnish the entire amount of \$4,500 during October. Gifts should be marked "Finnish Bible House" and sent to the Treasurer, American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York.

The celebration of the 400th anniversary of the first printed Finnish New Testament will be held in the cathedral church of Turku (Abo). It will be a two-day celebration, beginning October 2. The President of Finland, Juho Kusti Paasikivi, will be present. The Scandinavian Churches, the Church of England, the British and Foreign Bible Society and other organizations that have aided the Finnish Bible Society in the days of her distress, will be represented. The American Bible Society will be represented by Dr. S. C. Michelfelder, Executive Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Dr. Sigfrid E. Engstrom, representing the Lutheran Churches of America, and Dr. Alfred Haapanen of the Soumi Synod (Finnish-American Church) of Hancock, Michigan.

Let the World Come

WORLDWIDE

THANKSGIVING



I am a business man. Business demands integrity and moral character.

I write letters. Have I thought of enclosing one of the bookmarks in each envelope?

I am a teacher. I will put up a poster and supply the reading lists to all pupils who want them.

I am a hospital visitor. Will not everyone I greet be pleased to have a reading list?

I am a chaplain. This is my opportunity to hand a reading list to those whom I meet.

I am a doctor. Why should I not place a Bible in the reception room, with bookmarks near it?

I am an editor. What better use can I make of the reading list than to print it in our paper?

I am a publisher. Our magazine can find space to publish the reading list and add a paragraph about Bible reading.

I am a banker. I can place a poster in the window and bookmarks at writing desks.

I am a hotel employee. Why should I not ask to place the reading lists in the mail boxes and on the desks?

I am young. I can mold a better personal life and make a better America through Bible reading. I will start now.

I am getting older. New messages come to me more and more as I read from God's Word.

I am a parent. What more important responsibility have I than to read the Bible daily with my children?

I am a clubwoman. My organization can surely mention Worldwide Bible Reading at the November program and offer the bookmarks to all.



of the Lord Now"

E READING CHRISTMAS

I am a librarian. Cannot various editions of the Bible be displayed with a poster, and bookmarks placed nearby?

I work in a shop. Should I not encourage my fellow workers to join me in these readings for 31 days?

I am an advertiser. Why should I not designate space for calling attention to Worldwide Bible Reading?

I am a taxpayer. Is there any surer way of building democracy than to read the Bible and encourage others to do so?

I am a voter. Can I forget that peace and consolation will come if all godly people read the Bible?

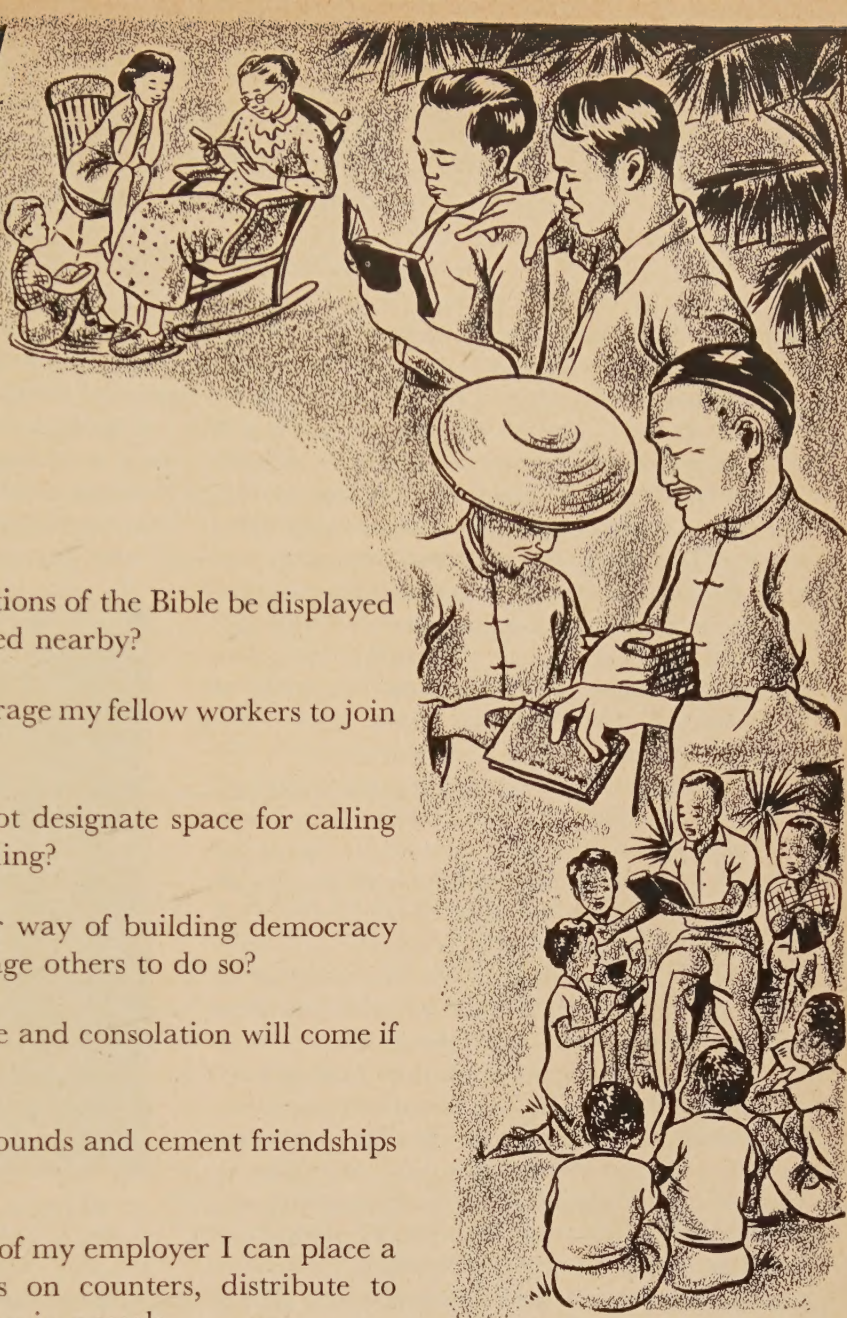
I am a neighbor. I would bind up wounds and cement friendships by handing out the reading lists.

I work in a store. With the sanction of my employer I can place a poster in the window, bookmarks on counters, distribute to friends, place in pay envelopes, wrap in parcels.

I work in a radio station. I will urge our management to schedule a program on Bible reading, and have the reading each day presented on some program or at least a spot announcement of the passage.

I am a church worker. Could I ever be forgiven if I neglect to use the reading list for the culture of my own soul, or if I fail to distribute copies to fellow members, or supply them for Sunday-school and group use?

Everyone can join the movement to promote wider reading of the Bible by sending a reading list to those he knows who need spiritual help and enlightenment; to those he knows who are lonely or among strangers; to shut-ins; to young people away at school.



Write for the quantity of Worldwide Bible Reading Bookmarks you need. They list the 31 Scripture passages to be read daily from Thanksgiving to Christmas, together with an eight-point program of suggestions for successful Bible reading.

Send your request to AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, Dept. U, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

Reviving an Ancient Faith Through the Scriptures

What an Earnest Layman and a Bible Society Colporteur can do with a Church almost buried under centuries of superstition and lethargy, as told by a member of the American Mission in Luxor in Egypt

BY BRADLEY WATKINS

THERE is a town near Luxor named Tod, which contains within its compass of ten acres or so the ruins of a Pharaonic temple, a mosque which dates back to the earliest days of the Arab conquest of Egypt, a Coptic church which was built by Queen Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, and an Evangelical Fellowship which dates back to 1946! The Pharaonic temple is of relatively secondary importance, but is replete with hieroglyphics and broken pottery, a sacred lake and a French archeologist who is currently carrying on excavations there. The temple was obviously used at one time as a place of Christian worship, for there are many stone fragments lying around bearing the inscription of the Cross. The mosque is situated on a mound rising just beside the temple, and the townspeople insist it was built by 'Amr-ibn-al-'As, who conquered Egypt for the Arabs in 642 A.D. The Coptic church lies just to the east of the town, on the edge of the desert. It is constructed of whitewashed mud brick, the roof consisting of at least a dozen mud-brick domes, the use of wood being impractical because of termites. The Christian burial place surrounds the church—a cluster of low sand-mounds scarcely distinguishable from the surrounding desert. The floor of the present building is traversed at odd places by the stumps of wide brick walls, and the townspeople point to these as part of the original church built by Queen Helena. Here and there the walls of the present building are reinforced by stones taken from the Pharaonic temple, and the clearly apparent hieroglyphics add a strangely incongruous note to this Christian church. We were fortunate when we visited the church yesterday to find the priest sitting outside in the warm winter sunshine. He welcomed us heartily and conducted us with reverence and pride through the various rooms of the church. We leafed leisurely through various Coptic prayer books, some in manuscript and some printed, written in the ancient Coptic language, which is a lineal descendant from the language of the Pharaohs and is now understood only by the priests and a few devout members of the laity. My visit fell a few days before the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist (two weeks after the Eastern Christmas, January 7th), and the priest showed us a separate room in the church with a large cemented recess in the floor about six feet deep. This is filled with water on the feast day, and many pious Copts have themselves re-immersed in memory of that scene by the Jordan. When we left thanking the priest for his

hospitality, he gave us each a small round loaf of bread stamped with a Cross, known as a "korbana" (see the word used by Jesus in Mark 7:11).

I spoke at the outset of a Pharaonic temple, an early Arab mosque, a Coptic church and an incipient Evangelical Fellowship. Having covered several millenniums thus hastily in referring to the first three, let us turn our attention to the fourth. It happens that



Colporteurs starting out from the Society's Depot in Cairo, Egypt

for reasons best known to himself, the Coptic priest formerly opened the church only on feast days, once or twice a year; and for the rest of the year the Christian community in the town were left to cultivate their own spiritual lives as they saw fit. I daresay the number who could read their own Bible could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

It happens that one of the leading citizens of Tod is a graduate of the American Mission School for Boys in Luxor. He speaks affectionately of former missionaries and remembers clearly the party one of them had in his home for the graduating class. This man is a Copt; but when he heard that the Men's Association of the Luxor Evangelical Church were seeking places in which to hold evangelistic meetings, he urged them to open such a work in Tod and offered his home as the place of meeting. These meetings have been going on now for over a year, and recently the Luxor church arranged with a young man named Samuel Effendi Saeed to conduct the weekly meeting.

is a colporteur with the American Bible Society, during his week-ends he holds services in three villages in the Luxor district. The meeting at Tod is attended by about 25 men, 15 children and an unknown number of women who wait in an inner room. We never see them, but are assured that they join in the worship. Spurred on by this sign of spiritual hunger, the Coptic priest has recently begun to hold services at the church every Sunday, and our own meetings are now held Saturdays. It is a well-established principle that when evangelicals open one new work they always open two—their own, and one undertaken by the lethargic ritualistic church, which is thus spurred to new life. Samuël Effendi, our evangelist, is an earnest speaker, highly respected by the townspeople. A former teacher, he always devotes half an hour to the boys and girls at the close of the preaching service, teaching them a memory verse and then distributing colored Bible pictures, which all Egyptian children dearly love. At first they scramble for them like mad dogs; but by patient discipline they can be taught to come forward one by one and receive them

in an orderly manner. Yesterday, before the service, we visited the government compulsory school in this town to ask permission for the Christian children to attend our weekly services. This village and hundreds of others like it sorely need a Christian school to conserve the children for the Church. It is a common saying in Egypt that the school is mother of the Church.

All those who attend and support this meeting are Copts, that is, they avow their loyalty to the ancient national Church of Egypt which traditionally claims the Apostle Mark as its founder. However encrusted with ritual and superstition it may have become during the centuries, it has nevertheless remained faithful to its Lord through bitter persecution. This is the only Church these villagers know. What a wonderful opportunity we have to bring to these ancient Churches enlightenment through a clear personal knowledge of the Scriptures, and revival through the presentation of Christ as the only way to salvation, in reliance upon the quickening power of the Holy Spirit.

What I Found in South America

The General Secretary of the Detroit Young Men's Christian Association brings back his observations, which are of interest and encouragement to Record readers

BY A. G. STUDER

ONE cannot travel through the countries of South America without being impressed with the progress that evangelical Christianity is making. Everywhere in the larger centers and in rural sections, there are to be found the splendid results of the missionary enterprise and so thoroughly established and so deeply rooted that nothing can stay an increasing acceleration and developing of its work and influence.



Dr. Studer

significance, in the moral and spiritual life of the continent in the immediate decades ahead.

It is encouraging to know that there are thousands of Protestant churches scattered across the country, representing many denominations; and some in the capital cities are churches of great strength, both as to the number of their membership and to their influence.

The stability and indigenous character of the work are evidenced by the fact that there are 52 theological

colleges and Bible institutes, 60 hospitals and clinics, many Protestant bookstores and publishing houses. There are also 155 different church papers and periodicals read. Many of the most outstanding educational institutions are of missionary origin, and thousands of well-trained young men and women are graduated each year, most of whom come from the homes of the well-to-do and influential Latin Americans.

The American Bible Society is carrying on a magnificent service. It has headquarters in all the large cities, and works in close cooperation with the Churches, church schools, and missions, as well as with the Y.M.C.A. They sell at a nominal price thousands of Bibles, and a larger number of New Testaments; and give away unnumbered quantities of the Gospels.

The demand for Bibles is so great that double and treble the amount could be disposed of, if they were obtainable. What would it not mean to the building of the Kingdom, if this great need could be more adequately met in the immediate years ahead!

There are evidences everywhere that a new day is dawning in the moral and spiritual life of South America; and though it may be slow, it is inevitable.

A New Motion Picture

THE American Bible Society is happy to announce a new 16mm. Kodachrome sound-motion picture. It is entitled "Thy Word Giveth Light" and tells the story of the Society's service of supplying the Bible to the blind. The father of a service man blinded during the war tells the simple, yet dramatic story of how his son found his way back to a useful life through reading the Bible in Braille, and asks the audience to help the Society extend the Society's program.

The son takes his father through the Bible House, where they are shown how the Society has carried on its work for the blind for more than a hundred years, beginning with the printing of the first Bible in the Line-Letter system in 1835 and illustrating other vital embossed systems of reading in which the Scriptures have appeared during the century, including the Braille system, which is the one most widely used today, and also showing the use of the Scripture Talking Book records for the blind.

Wherever possible, authentic scenes and personalities are shown. The Society is indebted to the Home for the Destitute Blind in the Bronx, New York City, and to Christ Methodist Church, for furnishing people for some of the characters in the story.

From the Bible House itself, Miss S. Ruth Barrett, the Society's Secretary for Work for the Blind, and

Miss Margaret T. Hills, Librarian, and eight other members of the staff or their children play parts. General Secretary Cropp, who was a chaplain during the late war, returns to that role in the picture.

The father in the story, who is also the narrator, is played by Mr. Lawrence Paquin, who in private life has given many lectures on the Bible before Masonic lodges. The part of the blind son is taken by Mr. Ralph Douglas, who, as an employee of one of the great publishing houses of New York City, is interestingly enough, continually selling Bibles in the course of his regular work.

While the picture is made primarily to be shown in churches, the Society has already received a number of requests to show it before lodges, service clubs and other such groups.

"Thy Word Giveth Light" has been enthusiastically received by its preview audiences, the first of which was the great amphitheatre crowd at Chautauqua, New York. The picture runs for twenty minutes and may be secured through any of the Society's offices in the United States. The film makes a direct appeal for funds and is loaned upon the agreement to take an offering after the showing or pay a service fee of \$5 plus transportation costs, in lieu of an offering.



Scenes from "Thy Word Giveth Light"



Annual Membership in the Society is secured through gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Stewardship and Memorial Membership. Particulars can be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

From Minneapolis, Minn. (with a second gift of \$100):

I received your nice letter of February 11 last. After thinking over this matter the past few months, it seems to me that the distribution of the Holy Bible throughout the world is about as good a philanthropy as one could support, therefore I am moved to send you another check, which you will find herewith. From what I have read I understand the demand on you for Bibles is far beyond your ability to supply, hence this check.

From Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Enclosed find a check to the amount of \$25 which I promised the Lord while reading the *Bible Society Record*.

I know what the Bible has meant to me my whole life and I want to help share the blessing with those who have none and where the need is most urgent. I have been for 38 years a missionary to China. I am now retired, but follow the Lord's work with my prayers, in China, at home and all over the world. May God abundantly bless the Society and its work and supply all your needs for funds, and may each word of Scripture be the blessing which the Lord has intended it to be!

From Fremont, Nebraska:

Last month two of us from our church sent funds through our missionary society to support a native worker in China. This month we want to send you a check for thirty dollars so that Bibles may be sent to China, so that, as it were, our worker may have Bibles to give as he goes about the Master's work in China.

On our prayer list it is "China for Christ." "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit" it can be done.

From Gilman City, Missouri:

I am enclosing my gift to help you provide Scriptures for the blind. I already have a Sustaining Membership card in the Society, but I want to help thesefortunates. The Lord has abundantly blessed me and mine.

This morning, before our rural Sunday school, I tried to acquaint the other members with the wonderful work you are doing for the Lord, and your

needs for the future. We voted to give you our support.

Please send me about twenty sheets of your Seals for 1948, and I will personally handle their sale.

From a missionary translator:

One of our Tarascan Indian Christians gave me his tithe for the Lord's work (\$1.25). He is an earnest Christian and one of our translation helpers. Nothing would make him happier than to have his gift used, that the Word which he reads with such joy in his own language (as much as we have translated) should reach someone else who has never heard.

From Goodland, Kansas:

When I was a child I wanted a Bible very much. But times were hard and I did not feel that I should ask my parents for one. We had a Danish Bible but I could not read that. A friend gave me a Bible for helping her daughter with her school work. So now I want to help others who want a Bible and do not have the money to buy one, so I am enclosing a bank draft for \$1,500.

From South Orange, N. J.:

It is a pleasure to send a donation (\$25) to the Society that is such a great spiritual influence throughout the world. I wish it were possible to send a sum that would be more commensurate with the desire in my heart.

From Grand Rapids, Michigan:

I have lately received some of your literature. I am much interested and in accord with your work and aim.

Enclosed find \$25 for spreading of the printed Word of God.

I would be interested in knowing if gifts may be designated to certain funds, and if this particular one might be marked for the work in Japan. Also would be interested in knowing approximate number of New Testaments this would provide.

From Lorraine, Kansas:

I am enclosing a check for \$50 which I would like to have you use to send Bibles, New Testaments and Christian literature to foreign countries, including Germany, as needed most.

Would you send me one sheet of your Bible Stamps?

From Rosamond, Calif. with a gift of \$100:

I was thrilled in reading the letter from the colored boy in the May issue of the *Record*. To me it emphasizes again the great truth and revelation of John 1:17. The Gospel of God's grace is revealed in the New Testament.

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 93 OCTOBER 1948 No. 8

Daily Bible Readings

OCTOBER

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	I Peter	1	17	Sunday	
2	I Peter	2		Revelation	2
3	Sunday		18	Revelation	3
4	I Peter	4	19	Revelation	4;5
5	I Peter	5	20	Revelation	6:1-7:8
6	II Peter	1	21	Revelation	7:9-8:13
7	II Peter	2	22	Revelation	9;10
8	II Peter	3	23	Revelation	11;12
9	I John	1:1-2:11	24	Sunday	
10	Sunday			Revelation	13;14
	I John	2:12-29	25	Revelation	15;16
11	I John	3	26	Revelation	17
12	I John	4	27	Revelation	18
13	I John	5	28	Revelation	19
14	II, III John		29	Revelation	20
15	Jude		30	Revelation	21
16	Revelation	1	31	Sunday	
				Revelation	22



Dr. Etchison

This paragraph will serve to introduce to RECORD readers the Society's newly appointed representative in Washington, D. C. Page McKendree Etchison is one of the Capital City's most honored Christian leaders, having been associated with the Washington Y.M.C.A. for thirty-five years. He has also been active in Sunday school work, serving for the past year as president of the Organized Bible Class Association. Salem College,

West Virginia recently honored him with the degree of Doctor of Humanities. Dr. Etchison began his work, succeeding Dr. William L. Darby, retired, on October 1.

Help for Sunday-School Teachers

The "Uniform Series of the International Sunday-School Lessons" for the months of October, November and December, 1948, is "The Literature of the Bible." The American Bible Society has several leaflets on the topics included in these lessons which may be of specific interest to teachers and officers. These leaflets are free unless ordered in quantities of 100, when a charge of 35c per hundred is made.

To the lesson for October 10, "Biography in the Bible," the Society's leaflet U-109, "Men and Women of the Bible," may be used as supplementary. For the lesson of October 31 the Society's leaflet U-115, "Wisdom from the Bible," will correspond to the lesson "Wisdom Literature in the Bible."

For November 21 and 28, when the lessons deal with the poetry of the Bible and the parables of the Bible, U-112 and U-113, entitled "Poetry of the Bible" and "Stories of the Bible," respectively, should prove of help.

For the quarter's lessons generally the Society offers teachers a splendid 31-page booklet on literature concerning the English Bible entitled "The Influence of the English Bible on the English Language and on English and American Literature." It is listed as U-14 and a charge of 25c per copy is made.

A catalogue of all the Society's literature and supplies will be sent upon request. Address American Bible Society, Dept. U., 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. * *

August Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-third year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, August 5, 1948, President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

The death of Miss Helena M. Babbage on July 31 was reported, and the following Memorial Minute was adopted:

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society records with deep sorrow the passing on July 31, 1948, of Helena Maude Babbage, a devoted member of the Board for ten years, having been elected in May 1938 and serving on the Publication Committee. Miss Babbage was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Having traveled extensively, she was deeply interested in world affairs, and especially in the Society's work in bringing the Bible to all lands. Her interest led her to contribute regularly to the work of the Society. She was a lover of music, being a talented pianist.

The Officers and the Board record this Minute in honor of her memory and with appreciation of her life-long Christian service.

The resignation of James R. Joy, LL.D., as a Manager was accepted with deep regret.

Dr. Page Etchison was invited to become Secretary of the Washington D.C. Office, effective October 1.

Rev. Paul A. Collyer of Syracuse, New York was elected Assistant Secretary for work abroad.

Arrival in Tokyo of a large shipment of Bible paper from the United States was reported.

Dr. S. C. Michelfelder, Dr. Sigfrid R. Engstrom and Dr. Alfred Haapanen were appointed representatives of the American Bible Society at the 400th Anniversary Meeting of the Finnish Bible Society on October 2 and 3, 1948.

New Workers

The Editors are happy to introduce to our readers the Reverend Richard Harris Ellingson, who at the meeting of the Board of Managers on July 1 was appointed Secretary of the Society's Northwestern District, which cares for the work in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North and South Dakota. Mr. Ellingson is a minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for the past two years serving the Westwood Lutheran



Mr. Ellingson

church of Minneapolis. Before that, for three years he was a chaplain in the United States Navy. He was born in Decorah, Iowa, was graduated from Luther College located there, and later from the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Best-Known Book in Japan

THE Bible?—No, not yet. But the American Bible Society, in cooperation with the Japan Bible Society and encouraged by the growing enthusiasm of the Christian Churches of Japan and the sustained interest of the Japanese populace, is trying to make it so.

A poll taken by a Tokyo newspaper last winter revealed that the Bible, a relatively unknown book in Japan ten years ago, was number nine in popularity. Among the methods adopted to make the most of this golden opportunity of these days in Japan's post-war development, the American Bible Society earlier in the year published a large quantity of copies of the Sermon on the Mount in Japanese, believing that it would whet the appetite of many people for more of the Scriptures. Some of the early results of this strategy are reported in a letter to Treasurer Darlington mailed late in the summer by Mr. T. Tanaka, Secretary of the Japan Bible Society. We quote most of the letter, which is delightful reading:

On 24 of May we duly received 79,600 copies, book of the Sermon on the Mount in Japanese. . . . We fixed price on them one yen a copy upon consultation with the Executive Committee meeting.

How nice and attractive book! Japanese people like them very much and Christian workers also. Yes, it is one of effective of many ways to make the Bible the best-known book in Japan is to circulate this nice book. Our Bible seller make good use of this book—Mr. Fujimori took a trip to Nagano Prefecture very often for colportage; he never forget to have this nice book in his bag. Some time right after his train run off the station, he began to hand it over with smiling to each person in his car and said, "Pardon me to speak a bit about this little book: This book of the Sermon on the Mount—famous sermon of Jesus Christ on the mount. May I read it a little—Iyes gunjyu wo mite mata ni nobori—now, all ladies and gentlemen, if you would like to read it, please have it and pay one yen only. This book was made in New York."

In a subsequent letter Mr. Tanaka writes that in the three and one half months from April 1 to July 1938 there were distributed, mostly by sale, in Japan 10,510 Japanese Bibles and 73,283 Japanese New Testaments. Some idea of the increased interest in the Scriptures in Japan may be gained by comparison with the distribution in Japan in 1938, ten years ago, when in a whole year there were distributed but 1,912 Bibles and 94,689 New Testaments.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

Scripture Printing Revived in Japan

THE first New Testaments in the Japanese language to be printed in Japan in about a decade recently came off the press. There were 20,000 copies of the Japanese New Testament in the first delivery to the Japan Bible Society, with another 30,000 copies on the press. Publication has also begun of 20,000 Testaments with the Japanese and English texts in parallel columns, with a second edition of 30,000 planned for. The American Bible Society is furnishing the paper for all of these editions.



Supplementing the Cover Picture

On the occasion of the presentation shown in the cover picture, the group appearing here also posed for the camera man. Left to right they are: Dr. J. Silvado, Foreign Trade Advisor of the Pan American Union; Secretary Cropp; Secretary Claypool; Dr. Lleras; Dr. Tucker; Secretary Betts; Dr. Jorge Basadre, Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Pan American Union

American Bible Society Directory

(Presented in more complete form on this page in every other issue)

President, Daniel Burke; **Secretaries**: E. M. North, F. W. Cropp, F. H. Mann, R. A. Betts, R. T. Taylor; **Treasurer**, Gilbert Darlington; **Secretary for Public Relations**, F. C. Stiffler; **Secretary for Promotion of Bible Use**, James V. Claypool; **Secretary for Versions**, E. A. Nida; **Secretary for Visual Materials**, H. H. Ragatz; **Secretary, Work for the Blind**, Miss S. R. Barrett.

HEADQUARTERS: Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.; telephone, Plaza 3-6600.

DISTRICT OFFICES in the United States: 116 South Salina St., Syracuse 2, New York; 701 Walnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.; 9 East Franklin St., Baltimore 2, Md.; 1400 New York Ave. N.W., Washington 5, D.C.; Central Nat'l. Bank Bldg., Richmond 19, Va.; 85 Walton St., Atlanta 3, Ga.; 519 Main St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio; 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill.; 1914 Main St., Dallas 1, Texas; 650 17th St., Denver 2, Colo.; 224 McAllister St., San Francisco 2, Cal.

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FIELD OFFICES: 1506 Arrott Bldg., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.; 401 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio; 226 Seventh Ave., North Nashville, Tenn.; 1736 S. 12th St., Missoula, Montana; 325 Ramona St., Pasadena 4, Cal.; 813 Kales Bldg., Detroit, Mich.; P. O. Box 1845, Tulsa 1, Oklahoma; 515 Pickwick Bldg., 9th & McGee Sts., Kansas City 6, Mo.

Depositories located at same addresses in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco.

FOREIGN AGENCIES located in: Havana; Mexico City; Cristóbol, Canal Zone; Lima, Peru; Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Istanbul, Turkey; Cairo, Egypt; Manila, P.I.; Bangkok, Siam; Shanghai, China; Tokyo, Japan.

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